

CITYVIEW

City of Hamilton Planning and Development Department

1996

PARKS

Parks are for people of all ages. In different times during our life, we use parks and their facilities in different ways. When we were small we loved the swings, the slides, the wading pool, the small neighbourhood outdoor rinks; as we got older, sports fields were important for playing soccer, hockey, baseball. When we reach our later years, it is nice to walk in the park, sit down on a bench.



Photos: Susan Preston

HOW DO WE KNOW WHERE THE PARKS WILL BE?

Future parks are identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. In undeveloped neighbourhoods, the Plan shows where the park is located; what type of park (i.e. neighbourhood, community wide) and how big it should be. In the developed neighbourhoods, where no vacant land is available, the Neighbourhood Plan either identifies specific properties for future park sites (i.e. Lansdale, Durand) or shows the approximate location of the park and its size (i.e. Corktown).

In recent years, some established parkland has been used for other municipal purposes (e.g. fire station, combined sewer overflow tanks, senior centre). Some people agree with this approach; others do not. What do you think?



HAMILTON'S PLAN FOR TOMORROW

ARE THERE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PARKS IN THE CITY?

 There certainly are!

Parkettes

Population Served: not applicable

Distance from your house: not applicable

Use: passive park use (i.e. benches) or visual benefits (open areas)

Examples: Kimberly/Dundonald, Dalewood, Balfour

Neighbourhood Parks

Population Served: 5,000 people

Distance of this park from your house: 0.4 to 0.8 km

Uses: pedestrian walkways, play grounds and equipment, seating, etc.

Examples: Simcoe Tot Lot, Templemead, Powell, Riverview

Community Parks

Population Served: 15,000 to 20,000 people

Distance of this park from your house: 0.8 to 1.6 km

Uses: pedestrian walkways, play grounds and equipment, seating, etc.

Examples: Beasley, Inch, Roxborough, Mountview, Humber

City Wide Parks

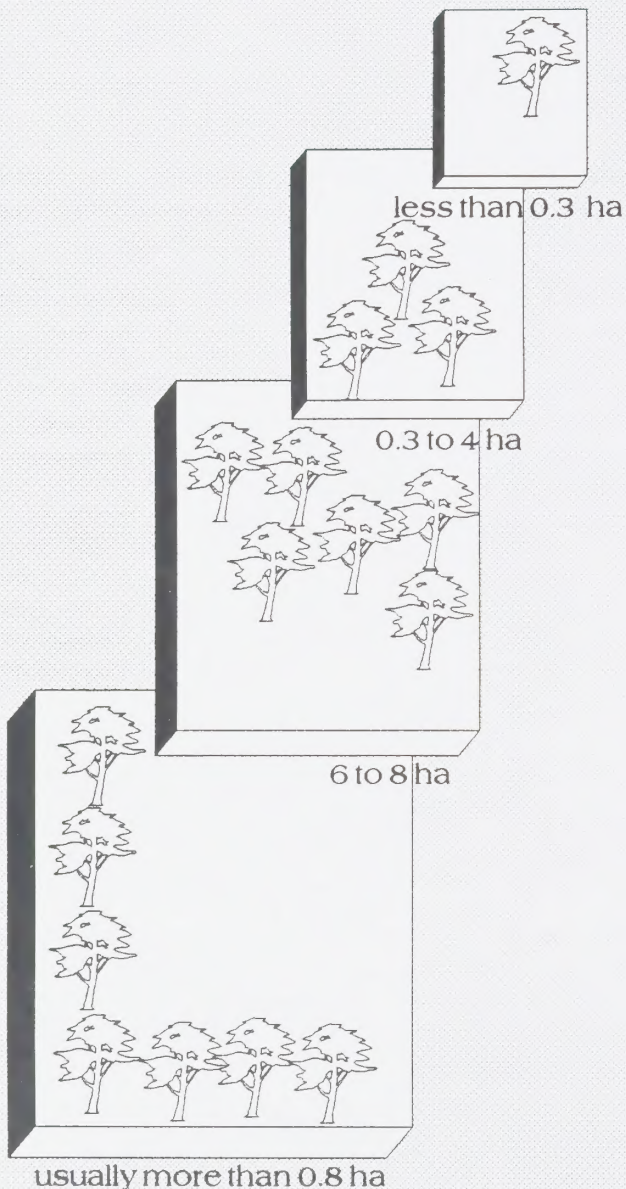
Population Served: City Wide

Distance of this park from your house: not applicable

Uses: it includes a major sports facility, cultural facility

Examples: Mohawk Sports Park, Bayfront Park, Sam McCloskey

There are also a number of areas the City classifies as green space which include woodlots, valley lands, waterfront and the Escarpment



HOW MUCH PARK SPACE SHOULD THERE BE?

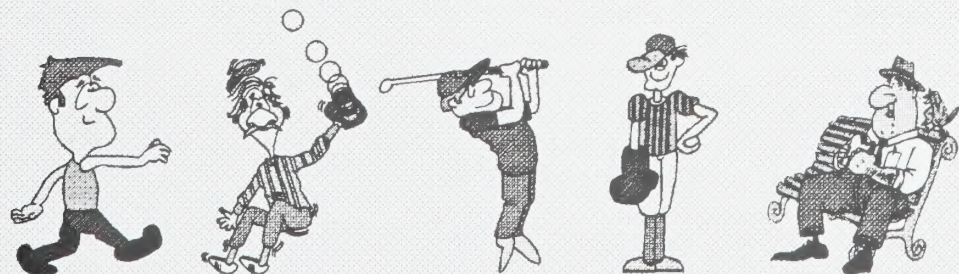
Planning for parkland is very important. That is why the Official Plan sets standards for how much parkland there should be in the City. These standards are based on the population, type of park and the distance between you and the park.

Type of Park	Amount of parkland for every 1,000 people	Distance from your house
Neighbourhood Park	0.5 ha (1.2ac.)	not more than 0.8 km (0.5 miles)
Community Park	0.5 ha (1.2ac.)	not more than 1.6 km (1 mile)
City Wide Park	1.9 ha (4.7 ac.)	not applicable

Since parkettes are small, they are simply considered as additional park space. The ideal amount of park space is 2.9 ha (7.2ac.) of parkland for every 1,000 people. In fact, the City, as a whole, has a ratio of 3.7 ha per 1,000 people.

When these standards are used to compare individual neighbourhoods, it is not surprising that some areas have less parkland than others. 39 of 127 neighbourhoods have less than the ideal amount of land for park purposes, the majority of which are in the lower City. The older areas of the City tend to have less parkland because there was/is less land available for that purpose.


Does the city have a proper balance between natural areas (i.e., Niagara Escarpment) and developed parks.




HAMILTON'S PLAN FOR TOMORROW

HOW DOES THE CITY ACQUIRE PARKLAND AND HOW ARE THEY FUNDED?

The City can acquire parkland in many ways:

 when a landowner wants to develop a residential subdivision, he is required to give 5% of his land or a cash equivalent to the City which will be used for park purposes. This transaction is called 5% Parkland Dedication; or,

 the City buys land: 1) that has been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan for park purposes; 2) where there is a shortfall in parkland; or 3) where properties are used for parkland but are not owned by the City (i.e. school board lands);

Funding for purchasing parkland, park development/redevelopment and purchase of play equipment comes from three sources: 1) the 5% Parkland dedication fund; 2) the City's capital budget and 3) residential development charges (a fee paid to the City for each housing unit built).

The City has adopted the Parks Expenditure Policy, which establish policies to manage park expenditures. The policies are broken down into the following categories:

- ① Funding for parks
- ② Identifying park needs and deficiencies for neighbourhoods
- ③ Parkland acquisitions priorities and sale of surplus parkland
- ④ Park development:



Should we continue to acquire new lands for park purposes or spend the money on redeveloping existing parks?

Should the City continue to buy natural areas such as woodlots, valley lands?

DID YOU KNOW

☺ In the 1950's, the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Board of Education embarked on an ambitious program to buy large tracts of lands in the middle of undeveloped neighbourhoods

on the south mountain for park and school purposes. These parcels were bought to ensure that adequate parkland was available when the areas were built.

- ☺ the City has approximately 1,200 ha of active and passive parkland within the City.
- ☺ the City has established joint ventures with agencies such as the Hamilton Board of education and the Royal Botanical Gardens to use their land for park and recreational purposes.
- ☺ the United Nations recognizes the Niagara escarpment as a "world biosphere"

CITYVIEW

CityView Hamilton's Plan for Tomorrow is your opportunity to present your ideas and thoughts on the future of Hamilton.

Your ideas will ultimately form the basis of a new Official Plan for the City of Hamilton.

Staff of Hamilton's Planning and Development Department are available to answer your questions on any facet of CityView.

Ways to Contact Us...

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CityView Brochure 14 of 24